

NORTHALLERTON

Urban District Council.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE

Year ended December 31st, 1902.

BY

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NORTHALLERTON:

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NORTHALLERTON URBAN DISTRICT.

NORTHALLERTON,
FEBRUARY 5th, 1903.

Medical Officer's Annual Report for the Year ending December 31st, 1902.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have again the honour of presenting my Annual Report dealing with the general sanitary state, the birth and death rates of the Urban District of Northallerton, for the year ending December 31st, 1902. For convenience in comparing the statistics of this with those of previous years, I shall follow the same order in the tables and the general arrangements of its contents as formerly.

Population.

The estimated population to the middle of 1902 is 4,035, being an increase of 26 since the census was taken in 1901 when the population proved to be 4,009, and the number of inhabited houses 988, making an average of 4·05 per occupied house. The average increase during the past ten years has been 20·7 per year. The number of new houses built during the year and occupied is 9.

TABLE 1.

Year.	Inhabited Houses.	Average.	Population.
1901	988	4·05	4,009
1902	997	4·04	4,035

Deaths.

The total number of deaths at all ages registered in the district during the year, but not all belonging to the district is 61, being four more than last year, but 1 less than the average for the previous 6, making a general death rate previous to any correction of 15·1 per 1,000 of the estimated population, compared with 14·2 for 1901, and with 15·6 the average revised return for the past 6 years. But by correcting these figures, excluding non-residents brought into the district, on account of sickness and dying in public institutions therein, and including any residents who have gone through sickness and died in public institutions elsewhere, the total number of deaths falls from 61 to 52, making a *general death rate of 12·8 per 1,000 estimated population*. This is a highly satisfactory return, and compares favourably with last year, when the death rate was 13·2, or with the average of 14·4 for the past 6 years.

Infant Mortality.

12 Infants under 1 year of age died during the year, making an *infant mortality of 104·3 per 1,000 births registered*. This infant mortality is also satisfactory, it is nearly 12 less per 1,000 than last year, and 9 less than the average for the past 6. Another favourable aspect of this infant mortality is the fact that no deaths were due to infectious disease, infantile Diarrhœa, or other preventable disease, but all to the ordinary ailments of childhood, 1 being due to Bronchitis, 2 to Pneumonia, 2 to premature Birth, 7 to other general causes which are not particularised in the printed Table No. 4 affixed to this Report.

Of the 52 deaths belonging to the district, no fewer than 14 attained the age of 70 years and over, 3 being 75 or over, 4 were 80 to 85, and 1 92 years of age.

TABLE 2.

UNDER 1 YEAR.		OVER 70 YEARS.	
1 day	- 1	70 to 75	- 6
3 „	- 2	75 to 80	- 3
4 „	- 1	85 to 90	- 4
3 weeks	- 1	92	- 1
1 month	- 1		—
3 „	- 1		14
4 „	- 1		
6 „	- 1		
7 „	- 2		
9 „	- 1		
—			
12			

The average age at death has also considerably increased this year, being 41 years instead of 35·2 last year, and deducting the 12 infant deaths, the average age rises to 53·2 in the place of 45·3 for 1901. The average for the past 3 years being 39·9. Of the 52 deaths registered as belonging to the district 28 were males and 24 females, the average age of the males (not including infants) being 52·2 years and the females 54·2 years.

TABLE 3.

AVERAGE AGE.			
1899	-	-	39·4 years
1900	-	-	45·3 „
1901	-	-	35·2 „
1902	-	-	41 „

Zymotic Death Rate,

The only deaths from notifiable infectious disease in your area during the year were 2 from Typhoid Fever, which gives a *Zymotic Death Rate of 0·49 per 1,000*, the average for the past 6 years being 0·64.

TABLE 4.

YEAR.	DEATH RATE.				ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE.	
1896	-	-	9·47	-	-	0·50
1897	-	-	17·3	-	-	1·27
1898	-	-	16·4	-	corrected	0·25
1899	-	-	12·3	-	-	0·25
1900	-	-	18·0	-	-	0·50
1901	-	-	13·2	-	-	0·74
1902	-	-	12·8	-	-	0·49

One of these cases of Typhoid Fever did not contract the infection in your area but came home on account of illness, and the other case probably contracted the disease outside the town. There were in addition 4 deaths from infectious disease not notifiable in your area, viz:—2 from Influenza, and 2 from Tubercular Phthisis. Amongst the causes of the other deaths 3 were due to other Tubercular Diseases, 2 to Cancer, 7 Bronchitis, 3 Pneumonia, 2 Premature Birth, 4 Heart Disease, 1 Accident, and 23 to other general causes. There were 14 deaths in public institutions, 9 of which did not belong to the district.

Births.

The births registered during the year number 115 which is 3 more than 1901, and 7 more than the average for the past 6 years. *The Birth Rate works out at 28·5 per 1,000* against an average birth rate of 27·6 for the previous 6 years. Comparing the Birth and Death Rates of your area for the past year it is interesting and satisfactory to note that the Birth Rate is more than double the death, the figures being Births 28·5, Deaths 12·8; or the average for the past 7 years, Birth 28, Death 13·6. Of these Births 58 were males and 57 females. Six of the females being illegitimate.

General Health.

The general health of your area during the year under review has been satisfactory and has not been marked by any serious epidemic. In the spring months Influenza as usual visits the district, but was not of a severe or obstinate kind, and again in the late autumn a second visitation occurred, a large number of cases now being of the abdominal variety. The summer on the whole was remarkably cold and dull, with a rainfall below the average, and a total absence of close oppressive hot days, consequently there was absolutely no infantile or other diarrhœa caused by unhealthy odours and food fermentation, nor had we fortunately any outbreak of Typhoid Fever worthy of the name. This climatic condition is the reverse of last year when we had much diarrhœa followed by typhoid fever.

The cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria referred to below were of a very mild and transient character, especially the latter, not necessitating the closure of the schools at any time during the year. In the following table the infectious diseases notified during the year are arranged to shew the amount during each month and the total for the year.

TABLE 5.

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	
Small Pox	..	...	1	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	3	1	...	2	2	
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Diphtheria	1	...	3	2	...	5	
Erysipelas	1	...	1	...	...	...
	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 3	<hr/> 6	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 8	
	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total.
Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	2	...	—	10
Typhoid Fever	1	...	1	...	...	...	3
Diphtheria	...	5	3	2	...	...	21
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 5	<hr/> 4	<hr/> 4	<hr/> ...	<hr/> ...	<hr/> 37

There have been 37 cases for the year, which is a considerable reduction on 1901 when 50 cases were notified. 26 of the 37 cases were treated at home, and 11 or 29·7 % isolated in the Fever Hospitals. The town was free from infectious disease during November and December. Of the total amount of infectious disease 7 cases were in children between the ages of 1 to 5 ; 16 the largest number between 5 to 15, and 7 each in the series of years 15 to 25 and 25 to 65.

SMALL POX.—One case in a tramp at the Workhouse was recognised during the month of March, and was with as little delay as possible isolated in the Rural Fever Cottage, and every precaution taken. The Workhouses north and south were communicated with by telegraph, and all contacts with the patient directly or indirectly who had not been recently vaccinated were re-vaccinated at once, and the casual wards fumigated and disinfected. Fortunately these measures were effectual, and I am pleased to record the fact that no further case followed.

SCARLET FEVER.—Ten cases in all have been present during 5 months of the year and were not limited to any particular locality. Nearly all were of a mild type and all recovered. Nine of the 10 cases were removed to the Fever Hospitals and were followed by no further spread, but 1 case treated at home has been followed by infection of other residents of the same house, an example which illustrates the importance of having diseases of this nature thoroughly isolated.

TYPHOID FEVER.—I am pleased to have to report fewer cases of this disease than during any year since you adopted the Notification Act in 1898. The number is 3. One of which came to Northallerton on account of illness and a second probably did not contract the disease here. Two were treated at home, and ended fatally. All such cases not removed are supplied with air-tight typhoid pails to receive the excretions, and the contents are disposed of under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

DIPHTHERIA has been present during 7 months of the year and the cases number 21, being an increase of 2. All were of the mildest type, all treated at home, and all recovered.

THE FEVER HOSPITALS have again been worked conjointly until the Rural District Council received notice to terminate their tenancy at the May term when the property was sold. Since this date, the Urban Hospital has served for both Councils, and the accommodation has fortunately proved sufficient as the number of cases requiring isolation has been fewer than usual.

The following table shews the number of cases admitted to each Hospital from each area during the past 4 years:—

TABLE 6.

Year.	URBAN HOSPITAL.			RURAL HOSPITAL.		
	Urban Cases.	Rural Cases.	Closed.	Urban Cases.	Rural Cases.	Closed.
1899 ..	12	5	.. 4 mths.	11	3	.. 7 mths.
1900 ..	8	8	.. 6 wks.	6	4	.. 9 „
1901 ..	10	5	.. 5 mths.	9	8	.. 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ „
1902 ..	7	12	.. 18 wks.	4	5	permanently in May.
	<hr/> 37	<hr/> 30	<hr/> 15 mths.	<hr/> 30	<hr/> 20	<hr/> 28 mths

Total in 4 years—Urban Cases isolated 67; Rural Cases 50. For the year 1902—Average stay in Hospital for Urban Cases 38 days, against 25.5 days for 1901; Average cost per patient £10 9s. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for 1902, against £9 4s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for 1901.

The total Expenditure for Urban Cases for 1902 being £134 15s 1d. against £166 2s. 9d. for 1901. This consists of £94 3s. 8d. for Nursing, food and attendance, and £40 11s. 5d. for rent, rates, fever cabs, repairs, and minor expenses.

In my last report I felt it my duty to call your attention to the state of the cottage used as your Fever Hospital, how unsuitable it was for the present purpose on account of its small size and close proximity to the highway, and pointed out the need for a new hospital on modern and improved lines more suitable to the requirements of the district. Since this time the Joint Committee appointed by the two Councils (Urban and Rural) to consider this matter and report thereon, have held many meetings and recommended their Councils to purchase a field of 4 acres or thereabouts for a site on which to erect the two Hospitals, the plans for which are at present in preparation. This site which is situated in the Urban area, about half-a-mile outside the town is an ideal one in every sense of the term. It is sloping to the South and West, has a dry sandy subsoil, the town's water supply within easy reach, a good approach, and no houses in the vicinity likely to be infected. I trust the plans will soon be completed, and the Hospitals proceeded with with as little delay as possible.

In February last I called your attention to the number of cases of Small Pox in several Yorkshire towns, and recommended the immediate erection of a temporary Small Pox Hospital in which to isolate any case should one unfortunately arise in your area. This recommendation was carried out in conjunction with the Rural Council by erecting two Corrugated Iron Hospitals on the site above spoken of. Unfortunately before their completion, the case occurred at the Workhouse and had to be isolated elsewhere, and as no other case followed they have as yet not been occupied. At present they are ready to receive a patient upon short notice.

The Notification Act in force does not include Measles, Whooping Cough, or Tubercular Phthisis, with regard to the latter very little Tubercular Phthisis is present in the area—only two deaths from this cause being registered during the year, and I therefore scarcely feel justified in pressing the Council to include this in the list of diseases. Formalin lamps are still used to fumigate all infected houses, and disinfectants supplied gratis by the Sanitary Inspector when required.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION. During the year 11 workmen's dwellings and 8 other houses have been built, and your Sanitary Inspector has carefully supervised their erection. Much of the older cottage property is situated down yards, many of which are narrow, air space insufficient, and the houses themselves small, cramped, and ill ventilated. The yards on the whole are now better kept, some have been improved, redrained and repaired, but many still are badly paved, and contain old dilapidated out-buildings. The demand for better house accommodation is not yet fully met, which fact is proved by the ease with which such property is let as soon as ready for occupation.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.—With one exception all the main sewers of the town are old brick barrel drains ventilated by manholes. As mentioned in my last annual report they continue in fair order, with the exception of the sewer leading along the back lane to the Workhouse. This old drain remains in the same condition as then stated, viz. : patched and much silted up with deposit. Many house drains have been tested during the year, and those of Railway View and Primrose Terrace both of which were found in bad order, were ordered to be relaid, and the work has been properly carried out. Many drains of the older property and in the yards above referred to are badly constructed, faulty, and required to be dealt with in a similar way. The drain taking the surface water on the south side of Station Road has been relaid during the year.

The sewage of the town is still treated in the Sewage Works erected in 1897-8, and during the past year much of the solid matter was precipitated by treatment with lime and the effluent discharged into the Romanby Beck. The pollution of this stream is still unmistakable but by regular flushing twice a week, and the fact that the past summer was a cool one has much improved its condition and the nuisance arising therefrom.

With the object of gaining information as to the best method of improving or extending these works, your Inspector has visited both York and Low Moor in the County of Durham, to inspect and report upon their methods of sewage treatment, and by these visits has gained much valuable information. The Council are at present considering the advisability of purchasing more land for the extension of these works by adding filter beds to be used to further purify the effluent after precipitation in the tanks.

HOUSE REFUSE.—The privy middens in your area have received considerable attention and many have been abolished, others repaired and improved. There are, however, numbers which are damp, delapidated, badly placed, too large and near to houses. The emptying of these by public scavenger has been regular, efficient, and carefully supervised.

Eight of the cottages erected during the year have not had the usual privy ashpits built in the yards but instead have zinc bins and pail closets. This is a great advancement and should be the usual practice in the future. Your area now contains 58 dust bins emptied once a week, an increase of 16 during the year. This should be carried still further by the abolition of all those ashpits which have to be emptied in the roadway before carting away.

All privy middens in crowded areas are emptied twice a month, and others further removed from dwellings once a month, and the refuse used for agricultural purposes.

THE WATER SUPPLY continues to be excellent, is an upland water, is pure soft and free from all risks of pollution. The quantity is sufficient for all ordinary requirements. The springs however were running low during the autumn after the summer drought, notices were issued as to waste, but beyond this it was not necessary to otherwise curtail the town supply.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901. Your area contains 85 Workshops and Workplaces consisting of:—Painters 3, Milliners and Dressmakers 12, Saddlers 5, Confectioners 4, Printers 4, Joiners 9, Blacksmiths 2, Mineral Water Manufacturer 1, Tinnerns 2, Cycle Manufacturers 2, Builders and Masons 6, Engineers 1, Tanners and Curriers 3, Gas Works 1, Millers 1, Sawyers 1, Tailors 7, Rag Sorters 1, Jewellers 4, Plumbers 4, Boot Makers 4, Basket Makers 1, Ironmongers and Whitesmiths 3, Coach Builders 1, Electric Works 1, Linoleum Works 1, Iron Founders 1.

I have to report favourably on the administration of the Act and in making inspections of the various workshops and workplaces. I have found the sanitary condition on the whole satisfactory, with regard to cleanliness, air space, and ventilation. The lime washing of such places is sufficient, effluvia ordinary, and where wet processes are carried on as in the tanning and leather trade, proper provision is made for the

draining away of wet material from the floor on which workers are engaged. The privy accommodation in many instances is much the same as in vogue in the older property, viz. : privy ashpits mostly in a fair state of repair. As these workshops are mainly small, provision for special means of escape in case of fire is unnecessary.

The Bakehouses are clean, well lime washed, do not contain any drain or closet, or communicate directly with sleeping apartments and none are underground. There do not appear to be any outworkers connected with or receiving material from any of the workrooms.

All dairies and cowsheds continues in a good sanitary state ; the common lodging house is about to be superceded, I believe by the erected of a model one, and the slaughter houses have been less objectionable by the better attention paid to the early removal of offal since the notice served by your Inspector last year.

Much of the improvement in the Sanitary condition of your area is due to the unceasing energy and close application to duty of your Sanitary Engineer, Mr. Hinchcliffe, whom I wish to thank for all help accorded me.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM BAIGENT, M.D.

Medical Officer of Health.